

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An oligonucleotide sequence that specifically binds to human tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ), said oligonucleotide sequence being selected from SEQ ID NO.; 25, SEQ ID NOs: 1-27 or 28.

2.-4. (Canceled)

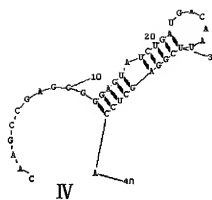
5. (Currently Amended) The oligonucleotide sequence as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence comprises a further truncated oligonucleotide sequence that functions identical to the oligonucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO.: 25.

6.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) The application of the oligonucleotides sequence as recited in Claim 1 for manufacture for therapy and diagnosis of TNF- $\alpha$  related diseases.

10.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The oligonucleotide sequence as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 11~~, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence has the following stem-loop structure:



(SEQ ID NO: 25).

13.-14. (Canceled)